

Remarks

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 8, 2004 in connection with the above-referenced patent application. Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 8, 10-15, 18, 20-25, 28, 30-35, 38 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McDermott *et al.* ("A Telephone-Based Directory Assistance System . . .");¹ claims 9, 19, 29 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDermott *et al.* in view of Poirier *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,321,372); claim 37 stands objected to because of an informality (*i.e.*, a typographical error); and claims 6, 7, 16, 17, 26, 27, 36 and 37 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated as comprising allowable subject matter.

By way of this amendment, Applicants hereby amend each of independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 to include the limitations of allowable claims 6, 16, 26 and 36, respectively, as well as the limitations of intervening claims 2, 12, 22 and 32, respectively, thereby making each of the independent claims patentable over the cited references. In addition, each of claims 2, 6, 12, 16, 22, 26, 32 and 36 have been canceled, and claims 3 and 7, 13 and 17, 23 and 27, and 33 and 37 have been appropriately amended to now depend from amended independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 31, respectively. Finally, note that the informality objection to claim 37 has now become moot, since claim 37 has been amended to depend from claim 31.

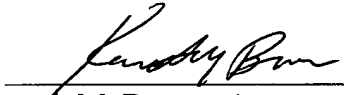
¹ The instant Office Action included claim 36 in the list of claims rejected under U.S.C. 102(b), as well as indicating that claim 36 comprised allowable subject matter. Applicants assume that a typographical error was made and that claim 36 should *not* have been included in the list of claims rejected under U.S.C. 102(b).

Since independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 each now include all of the limitations of corresponding allowable (previous) claims 6, 16, 26 and 36, respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that these independent claims are now allowable over the cited references. And since each of the instant independent claims are allowable, each of the remaining dependent claims (*i.e.*, claims 3-5, 7-10, 13-15, 17-20, 23-25, 27-30, 33-35 and 37-40) are allowable over the cited references as well for at least the same reasons. As such, Applicants hereby respectfully submit that all of the instant claims are allowable and that the instant application is in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of this submission. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney, Kenneth M. Brown, at (908) 582 – 5998, should there be any questions or issues for discussion in the reconsideration of the pending application.

Respectfully,

Hong-Kwang Jeff Kuo
Chin-Hui Lee

By 
Kenneth M. Brown, Attorney
Reg. No. 37590
908 – 582 – 5998

Lucent Technologies Inc.

Date: 11/29/04